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CUBAN EXILES RECRUITING DRIVE IS REPORTED

CIA Said to Have Role in Training at Secret Camps

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the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, May 21 —
Cuban exiles are being recruited
in this country in preparation for
possible new action against the
Castro regime, the Post-Dispatch
was told today.

Agents are instructing the exiles
to go to secret training
camps in Nicaragua and Costa
Rica, a usually well informed
source said. The camps are said
to be under the command of
Manuel Artime, who was hand-
picked by the Central Intelli-
gence Agency to lead the Bay
of Pigs invasion in 1961.

Other sources here spoke crypti-
cally of a high-level "co-
ordination" of Artime's raid on
the sugar port of Pilon in Oriente
province last Wednesday and the
reported raids and infiltration
landings on the north and south
coasts this week.

Competing Groups

There was a widespread belief
among exile leaders and other
observers that the CIA or pos-
sibly the newer Defense Intelli-
gence Agency was taking part in
the planning and timing of the
various raids.

Reports that the different exile
efforts were being co-ordinated
seemed intended to offset other
reports that the various groups
were competing for leadership
should Premier Fidel Castro be
overthrown.

Some of the other leaders con-
tinued to accuse Artime of being
a reactionary and of being too
willing to accept CIA direction.

Artime's associates, on the
other hand, have been critical
of Manuel Ray and Maj. Eloy
Gutierrez Menoyo, leaders of
other groups reported to have
landed small infiltration parties
on the Cuban coast in the last
few days. Those leaders, who
defected from the Castro regime
relatively recently, have been
accused of advocating "Fidel-
ismo without Fidel," or seeking
to keep Cuban socialism after
overthrowing Castro.

Ray's Junta Revolucionaria
(JURE) is seeking to take over
leadership of an underground
movement in Cuba. The 38-
year-old former minister of pub-
lic works under Castro is re-
ported to have set out for Cuba
in fulfillment of a public prom-
ise a year ago to return to lead
the fight against the Premier.

Gutierrez Menoyo, who was a
guerrilla commander with Cas-
tro, heads a group called the
Second Front of the Escambray.
His men fought the Fulgencio
Batista dictatorship in the moun-
tains of central Cuba while Cas-
tro operated in the Sierra Maestra
in the east.

Paul Bethel, an American citi-
zen who is executive secretary
of an organization here called
the Citizens Committee for a
Free Cuba, said that he spoke
with Gutierrez Menoyo last week
at a base in the Caribbean. Beth-
el would identify the base only
as "Cay Esperanda"—or "Reef
of Hope"—and said that its lo-
cation must remain secret.

'Stole Our Revolution'

Bethel issued a statement by
Gutierrez Menoyo expressing
confidence that the Cuban people
would rise against Castro and
asserting that "very, very soon
we are prepared to deal a strong

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blow to the Communists who
stole our revolution."

Another statement, from Ro-
gelio Cisneros, Ray's chief assis-
tant, also issued by Bethel, said
final victory depended on the
efforts of all Cubans—"those who
live abroad in exile and those
fighting and dying inside Cuba
today."

"The Castro regime is demor-
alized," the Cisneros statement
said. "The resistance of the Cu-
ban people, when added to the
industrial decay of the Commu-
nist regime, makes it possible to
carry the war to Cuba and to
pursue it to final victory on Cu-
ban soil."

Bethel said that the statement
was intended as a warning not
to expect big landings or quick
victory. He said that the time-
table of the raids and harass-
ment of the Castro regime called
for its overthrow in December,
or possibly early next year.

Supplies Stockpiled

Describing preparations for the
raids, Bethel said that food, sup-
plies and water were first stock-
piled on small islands, some
actually Cuban territory. Some-
times Cuban peasants or even
government officials were spir-
ited out for an hour or two for
help in planning the raids.

He said that the schedule of
infiltration and raiding was
about 60 per cent complete and
the chances of ultimate success
were about 60 per cent.

At the same time, Bethel re-
ported that a "referendum"
among Cuban exiles was nearly
completed. Exiles are being
asked to vote by mail on a pro-
posed committee of five leaders
who will then be able to speak
for the exiles as a group. He said
that it is being made clear that
the committee would not be a
government in exile.

Bethel described his commit-
tee as a nonpartisan, nonprofit
organization of American citi-
zens. It operates in a modest
suite of offices in downtown
Washington. In past months,
much of its work has been to re-
port activities of the Cuban un-
derground and difficulties of the
Castro regime.

Bethel was a foreign service
officer in the Department of
State and the United States In-
formation Agency for 12 years
until he resigned in November
1961. He was public affairs offi-
cer in the United States Embassy
in Havana in the last months of
the Batista regime and the first
months of the Castro regime in
1959.